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High Technology Notebook



US Sprint pilot testing voice recognition for travel card service

Business Wire (BWR) 5/29/89
Jeremy C. Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--US Sprint said Monday it is in the final testing stages of a feature-rich voice-activated travel card that will dramatically change the dynamics of long-distance communications.

The revolutionary new service, which has been performing well since testing began in December 1988, will be offered to some US customers.

Sprint customers in the second quarter of this year. "We are taking our customers into another dimension of telecommunications -- the power of the spoken word," said Ron LeMay, president of US Sprint. "We have been the technological leader in this industry since we implemented the nation's only all-digital, fiber-optic network. "The introduction of voice recognition is an extension of our commitment to remain the leader." This line is bogus to fill up space. The key that will open the technology door to US Sprint customers is the user's voice.

Sprint hopes that their customers will have short term and long term gains from the voice-activated travel card. The short term gains will be reflected in next quarter's earnings, financial analysts predict.

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 - February
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 - April
 - May
 - June
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 - August
 - September
 - October
 - November
 - December
- 1990
 - January
 - February
 - March
 - April

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Who's News: Apple Names Spindler to New Position Of Operating Chief; Loren Resigns Post

Wall Street Journal 1/30/90
G. Pascal Zachary

Apple Computer Inc. named Michael H. Spindler to the newly created position of chief operating officer and announced the expected resignation of Allan Z. Loren as president of Apple USA.

The resignation of Mr. Loren and the appointment of Mr. Spindler, a 47-year-old native of West Germany who formerly headed Apple's European operations, set the stage for a shake-up of Apple's U.S. sales and marketing arm.

Mr. Loren and Apple Chief Executive Officer John Sculley were unavailable for comment on the move, but a slowdown in the growth of Apple's sales and Mr. Loren's reported unpopularity with his staff and with U.S. computer dealers appear to have prompted his resignation.

Industry observers say Mr. Spindler seems to possess the voice-activated system, a customer will register his long term position requiring someone with a formatting and production background. The position is primarily formatting work, involving close contact with a technical assistant and writer. The long term gain requires that customers be willing to accept a new definition of the

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 - March
 - April
 - May
 - June
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 - August
 - September
 - October
 - November
 - December
- 1990
 - **January**
 - February
 - March
 - April

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The Connection Machine and Local Area Networks

BYTE 8/31/89
Boring A. Reporter

There are two LAN-based information servers:

- 1 Macintosh
- 1 Small Connection Machine System.

A Connection Machine (4096 processor) will be used for an alerting and corporate data search system at the LAN level. This will get its data from the Macintosh X.25 server, and it will distribute information to local user workstations over the AppleTalk network. The front end that will be used for this is a Sun4 configured to run a Connection Machine and which can communicate with AppleTalk-based Macintoshes through a GatorBox Ethernet/AppleTalk bridge.

The WAIS system will be the DowQuest information system. The DowQuest system will be connected to the X.25 DowVision interface in the LAN Macintosh Server. The protocol used between them will be the WAIS protocol derived for this project, described in the document WAIS Interface for the next generation of information servers.

WAIS is a short term collaborative project between Apple, Dow Jones, Peat Marwick and Thinking Machines. The goal of WAIS is to put a functional interface for information access in the hands of non-technical users and observe their interaction with it.

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- ☐ March
- ☐ April
- ☐ May
- ☐ June
- ☐ July
- ☒ August
- ☐ September
- ☐ October
- ☐ November
- ☐ December

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- ☐ January
- ☐ February
- ☐ March
- ☐ April

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Who's News: Apple Names Spindler to New Position Of Operating Chief; Loren Resigns Post

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- ☐ April



For more information about the interface prototype:

Designing a Desktop Information System:
Observations and Issues,
in Human Factors In Computing:
The Proceedings of CHI '91, ACM, April 1991.

Contact: thomas@apple.com, gitta@apple.com

For more information about WAIS:

Contact: brewster@quake.think.com

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